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S O M E
CONSIDERATIONS
O N

The present State of AFFAIRS.

W H E R E I N

The defenceless Situation of GREAT-BRITAIN, is pointed out, and an easy rational and just Scheme for it's Security, at this dangerous Crisis; proposed, in a MILITIA, formed on an equal PLAN, that can neither be oppressive to the Poor, nor offensive to the Rich, as practised by some of his Majesty's Colonies abroad;

I N T E R S P E R S E D

With an Account of the first Settlement of the Province of PENNSYLVANIA, the Origin of the Quarrel, between some of the TRADERS there, and the INDIANS; and an impartial Representation of the Debates betwixt the Governor and Assembly, in relation to that Quarrel.

L I K E W I S E

A short Description of the Air, Soil, Produce, &c. of the several Colonies on the Continent of North-America.

T H E W H O L E C O N C L U D E D

With a Summary Detail of the Education, Manners, and Religion of the Indians, not heretofore mention'd.

Written by PETER WILLIAMSON, *Author*
of the French and Indian Cruelty.

*Domestic Strife, and Party rage forego,
Collect your Strength and urge it on the Foe.
See! PENNSYLVANIA bleeds in ev'ry Vein,
Her Houses ravag'd and her Children slain!
Hear her to Arms her Parent Country call,
Lest both shou'd Perish in one common Fall.
Rouse, Britons, rouse from Sloth and dull Delays:
Be what you were in ANNE's and EDWARD's Days!*

O R K: Printed for the AUTHOR, and Sold by
all the Booksellers in Town, 1758.





The P R E F A C E.

A Sit is my humble Opinion that a regular MILITIA, on a just and equitable Establishment, is one of the best Means (under Providence) of securing us from any sudden Attempts or Invasion of the Enemy; I hope the Reader will candidly interpret the following Plan as a well-meant Endeavour to promote the Good of my Country: Nor wou'd I be supposed to dictate to the Legislature, for whose Authority and Abilities I profess the highest Veneration; but only to communicate my Sentiments with Freedom and Simplicity. Sensible I am of my own Inability to reduce the Subject to Method and a proper Disposition of Parts. However, it may be considered as the Out-lines of a Scheme propos'd and executed with Success in New-England and other Colonies of British-America, where my Lot has been cast: And I trust that my Entering a Volunteer into a Regiment of this Form will sufficiently evince the Sincerity of my Thoughts, as well as of my Affection for my Sovereign and his Kingdoms: Now as I am incapacitated from personal Service by a Wound I receiv'd at the Siege of Oswego, and have been stripp'd of my own Plantation which afforded me a comfortable Subsistence, together with all my Effects, by the Depredations of the Savages,

I entirely rely on the Humanity of the Public, which is already acquainted with my Sufferings, for a generous Encouragement of the Sale of this small Tract. It's only Merit is the Veracity and Honesty of the Author: And these two Qualities to the good and Virtuous are of more Estimation than the whole Seven liberal Sciences without them: Whenever then any Tautologies or Repetitions (and some there are)

occur, the Reader is desired to impute 'em partly to my want of Education, partly to the Manner the Piece was compiled in ; for it was writ by Fits and Starts, being often laid aside, and often resum'd, just as I had Health, Time, and Leisure. The Description of the Climate, Produce, &c. of the several Provinces in North-America, tho' short and artless, 'tis to be hoped will prove an agreeable Entertainment, as I have travelled thro' all these Countries, and have herein been chiefly led by my own Observations, which I can vouch for Truth, which Intelligēce I hope will satisfy the Curiosity of my Subscribers, &c. who have so honourably assisted me in my Publication, for which my Thanks, are for ever due.

P. WILLIAMSON.





S O M E
C O N S I D E R A T I O N S

O N

The present State of AFFAIRS, &c.

WHAT is here offer'd to the Public, is a short plain and easy Method, for the better regulating the MILITIA, with a brief Account of the first Settlement of the Province of *Pensylvania*, and the Cause of the Rupture between the said Plantation and the Indians, &c. But, before I proceed, it may not be amiss to beg the Reader's Pardon for the Inaccuracy of my Style and Sentiments, being wholly a Stranger to Art and Method : And, I doubt not but the Honesty of my Intentions, and the Truth of the Facts hereafter mention'd, will, with Men of Sense and Candour, sufficiently atone for these Defects. If then, this Sketch, rude as it is, and as rudely described, was but duely observed, as the Dignity of the Subject requires, ENGLAND might soon become the strongest Nation in the World, for many Reasons I have here to alledge.

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I. A due

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I. A due Consideration of the dangerous Consequences which may attend these troublesome Times, I am persuaded, will induce every true-hearted Protestant, (who shall seriously weigh the Arguments contain'd in these Sheets) to join in Opinion with Me, on this Pressing and momentous Occasion. And, if this Scheme was put into Execution in *Great-Britain*, as it is in some of his Majesty's *Plantations* abroad, this Island wou'd be in such a Condition of Defence, that all it's Enemies cou'd not hurt it.

Now this Design is not intended to be oppressive to the Poor, nor offensive to the Rich, but to be carried on in such a Manner, that all *Protestants* might, in an Hour's Warning, be ready to face their insulting Enemies on any Emergency whatsoever. And, as *England* hitherto has been too long defenceless, and is now in eminent Danger; I hope, every true Lover of his King and Country will rightly consider the Necessity we lie under, at this critical juncture, of acting with Unanimity and Vigour: A powerful and encroaching Enemy, we see, is threatening to distress us both at Home and Abroad, and may soon subject our Land, that Land of Liberty, to Slavery and arbitrary Power, if not timely prevented by some salutary Expedient, or other; For, our Affairs at present, wearing so dull and mortifying an Aspect, admit not of long Delays: But call aloud for Resolution, Activity and Dispatch.

Whatever Project then is thought upon, special Care must be taken to adapt it to the Genius of our People, and the Nature of our Constitution, that it may operate

operate only by such Ways and Means, as shall be easy and not oppressive to the Poorer Sort of People, and to cultivate Friendship and Union amongst them, that they may in the time of Danger, chearfully concur to support their King and Country according to their respective Abilities : But, for some Reasons not known, this Land has become of late an Enemy to it Self, the lower Class of People complain heavily of an Act of Parliament made for raising the Militia, which they ignorantly imagine to be done in order to distress them, till at last, the Country People in some Counties, instigated by groundless Jealousies and Resentments, were wrought up to such a Ferment, that many begun to be apprehensive lest these unnatural Feuds shou'd terminate in a civil War ; for the Farmers, assembling together in great Numbers, headed the Mobs, which consisted chiefly of their Servants and Dependents, gutted and untild a few Gentlemen's Houses, (whom they thought Abettors, or Executors of the Act) with all the Barbarity that Rage and Madness cou'd inspire, nay, so far had they divested themselves of the two great Principles of Humanity, Reason, and Justice, that Banditti-like, they demanded Money of several Gentlemen, threatening, in case of refusal, to pull down their Houses about their Ears, and some large Sums were given in order to pacify them.

This Act, or rather the Mis-understanding this Act, occasion'd such Disturbance amongst the People as is scarce to be parallel'd in the History of *England*. After ravaging two Houses in *York*, of considerable Value, they still continued to commit Acts of Violence

and Outrage, till the *Lieutenant* of the *Riding*, the *Lord Mayor* of the *City*, and the *High Sheriff* of the *County*, by prudently issuing out Declarations of various Kinds, signify'd that they wou'd not proceed any further in the Execution of that Act, until his Majesty's further pleasure was known; and this appeased the Farmers in a great Measure.

If we seriously reflect on the ill Consequences of these rash and illegal Proceedings, such Things ought never to be encourag'd in any Christian or civiliz'd Society, but discountenanc'd and suppress'd with all the Vigour imaginable. Such Combinations of the Vulgar to oppose lawful Authority, if suffer'd to go on with Impunity, will in time bring the Government, first into Contempt, and then introduce Anarchy and Confusion, or, what is worse, French Laws and Popery; and their Laws and Religion will naturally transfuse into us a Spirit of Persecution and Cruelty.

Their Cruelty has been but too well experienced by me, as well as Thousands besides, who have undergone the greatest Calamities human Malice cou'd invent, or human Nature bear; For after we had deliver'd every thing we had in the World into the Hand of the brutal Enemy, all this wou'd not satisfy 'em, but whatever poor Wretch unhappily fell into their Clutches, must be sacrific'd to their merciless Fury and Revenge, and be oblig'd to suffer Death in all it's most hideous Forms. And so shockingly enormous is the kind of Cruelty and Barbarity that has been committed on the poor unfortunate Subjects of *North-America*, by those Savages employed in the *French* Interest,

Interest, that the bare Relation or Recollection thereof, is enough to raise Astonishment and Indignation in all true Protestants, who prize their Lives and Liberties, and put them upon acting in all Things agreeably to his Majesty's good Will and Pleasure, against such a deceitful and cruel Enemy, as is now meditating our Ruin here at Home, having by Policy and Fraud succeeded in almost all their Undertakings abroad.

In short, 'tis now high time to look about us and conclude on some vigorous Measures for our own Defence against all our Foes who are hourly concerting all the Schemes imaginable to bring *England* into Subjection to them. And as they have carry'd many of their Schemes into Execution in our *American* Plantations, not only laying Waste the Country, but encouraging the Savage Race most barbarously to torture and cruelly mangle the Poor Inhabitants, in open Violation of the Laws of all civiliz'd Nations under Heaven. When they shall have accomplish'd all their Designs abroad, *Great-Britain* will undoubtedly be the next Object of their Ambitious Views, *Great-Britain*, alas! at this Time, so defenceless, and in such Confusion that if the Enemy shou'd now actually invade it, 'tis very much to be fear'd, they wou'd succeed but too well.

The People of *Europe* in general are aiming at Something, but they don't know what. "We are like (as the Scripture saith) a House divided against it Self, and if so, that House cannot stand; like-wise, if a Nation be divided against it Self, that Nation cannot stand."

This

This is the Situation of *England* at present, and doubtless will be rightly observ'd by the Enemy who will improve our Home-divisions to their Advantage, by blowing up the Coals of Dissension among us till they break out into a Flame, and then when they shall find us sufficiently weakened by our intestine Broils, we shall soon become Victims to their Ambition.

Some People in *England*, I'm persuaded, imagine that the *French* are an Enemy of so much Politeness and Humanity, that if they shou'd make a Conquest of the *Island*, they wou'd be better used than they are now. The *French*, indeed, will employ all the Arts of Guile and Flattery to make you believe so, and when they have done it, laugh at and enjoy your simple Credulity; for such is their Subtilty, so smooth and Plausible the Gloss they Varnish their Pretensions with, that with shallow and in-experienc'd Minds they may easily pass for Realities. But, I have had too much Knowledge of their specious Fallacies ever to trust 'em again.

I remember their many fair Promises at the Siege of *Oswego*, and their Articles we have to shew when we deliver'd up the Fort to them where we were to be used with Humanity, and every one treated agreeably to his respective Rank, according to the Custom of War. On those Promises solemnly given under their Hands relying, the Poor Sick, and Wounded in the Hospitals thought they wou'd be carefully attended and tenderly dealt with; But instead of that, as soon as the Garrison was surrender'd to them, they suffer'd the *Indians* (whom

(whom they prompted to, and abetted in the inhuman Task) to destroy all the Sick and Wounded that were not able to make their Escape.

Moreover, further to shew their Malice to the miserable Inhabitants of the Back-parts of *Pensylvania*, not content with their surrendering Prisoners of War, they kill'd, burn'd and scalp'd all they met with in such a Butcherly manner, that 'tis enough to make one shudder with Horror at the bare Relation or Hearing. A Scene so moving, pitiable and affecting might have melted any Heart into Compassion that possess'd the least Particle of Sensibility.

Here I cannot help observing, that (notwithstanding what has been said of the *Indian Cruelty*) it would not have been half so destructive to our Colonies, if it had not been set on Edge by the all-powerful Gold of that King and his Allies, who falsely stiles himself *Most Christian*. What I have already said may serve for a Specimen of the *French Cruelty*, and shew what *England* might expect if they had the like Advantages over us here, as they have in some Parts of the World, as is above hinted. Now let this melancholy Theme awaken in us the sleeping Seeds of true Fortitude and Liberty, for which our Ancestors were so justly fam'd, while we consider the loyal Subjects in *North-America* losing not only their Lives, but even the Living dispossessed of all they have in the World and oblig'd to beg their Bread at the cold Hand of Charity: For the same will certainly be the Case with *Great-Britain*

Britain, if we don't unanimously agree, and join together as one Man, exerting our united Efforts like valiant Soldiers, in behalf of our King and Country ; if we were but a loyal People and true one to another, no Nation in the World would dare to face us in Battle, since our Land is blessed with every Thing suitable to carry our Schemes into Execution, and therefore, if we can tamely submit to be Slaves, the Fault is our own ; the Soil, with proper Culture, is exceedingly fertil, but if we won't be at the Pains to manure it, to sow, to reap, &c. were we to starve I think no Body would pity us.

Had some Men been as active in making Preparations against their Enemies, as they have been in raising Mobs in the Country to destroy Gentlemen's Properties in a lawless and arbitrary Manner, *England* might have been by this Time in a very good Posture of Defence. It has always been observed by the wisest of Men, that Mobs, tho' for a while they may reign triumphant, yet at last come off with Shame and Disgrace, because the Laws of all civiliz'd Nations, as well as of *Great-Britain* are against such Insurrections ; if they have Success for two or three Days it is the most, some Means or other will and ought to be taken to suppress them. For if Mobs were permitted to over-rule and dictate to the Legislature, we should immediately relapse into a State of Nature, and sink into a Level with the very Savages we have been treating of ; the Voice of Reason, the Voice of Revelation cry out aloud against Violent Commotions and Oppositions to the establish'd Laws of a civil Community.

Now

Now in ours as in all free Societies, no Bill can ever pass into a Law without the Sanction of a Majority of the People's Representatives, and the Guardianship and Execution of those Laws (as being in Effect made by themselves in the Person of their Members of Parliament) are the Security of every Individual Property. And the Gospel is very clear in the Point, as we may see by consulting the first 6 Verses of the 13th Chapter of the Epistle to the *Romans*, to which I refer the Reader.

This being incontestably true, by the strongest Proofs any Proposition whatever can possibly admit of, is it not really amazing that we shou'd contend here about Trifles not worth Notice, while the Enemy is forming Schemes of the greatest Consequence, which, I'm afraid will prove too fatal to some who at present scarce give themselves the Trouble to think about it. For Pride, Luxury, and Pleasure so generally prevail, that the Major Part of the People mind nothing but Horse-Races, Gaming, and other such vile Practices, Practices manifestly repugnant to the Law of God and Man, while the main Principle which at this, as at all Times, ought to influence us, is too much overlook'd and disregarded. This invaluable Blessing we enjoy in the Protestant Religion whose Rights we ought to maintain against all those that dare to oppose it. But now a Days private Interest in our false Scales, out-weighs the Publick, and, whenever a Part is prefer'd to the Whole, the Consequence must certainly prove fatal.

When the *French*, our most inveterate Enemies, shall bring their numberless Armies into our Land; and compell to submit to their Terms, and bring us into Subjection by Dint of the Sword, which is what they are now aiming at, and which they will undoubtedly effect, if we don't conclude on some Methods for our own Defence, for it may in a short Time, in all Probability, be impossible to avoid the Snares of the Enemy.

Now, pray, pause a little, my Countrymen, if you were brought to groan under hard Task-Masters, as the *Israelites* of Old were under the *Egyptians*, then wou'd not you wish you had taken some such Methods as I am now proposing to You? But when Matters are beyond all possibility of Remedy, then it will be too late to repent.

Israel was one of the strongest Nations in the World, and, as I may say, God's own peculiar People; they thought themselves quite secure and safe against the Attacks of any Neighbouring Nation, and so, indeed they were, when God was their Protector, all the Powers of the World cou'd not hurt them; but when they forgot God and all other necessary Preparations, both against their Spiritual and Temporal Enemies, and made to themselves Idols of Wood and of Stone to Worship, God was so highly provoked at their impious Stupidity, that he suffer'd 'em to fall an easy Prey to their Enemies under whose Dominion they labour'd for a Season. In their Distress, in their Captivity (when it was almost too late) they saw, they

they felt, they bewail'd their Neglect, their Ingratitude, their Idolatry.

The State of *England* is parallel to the Israelites, while they steadily adher'd to the Laws of God and their Country, no Power on Earth cou'd prevail against them; but now they seem to act in Opposition to the Will of God, and the Constitutions of the Realm.

These two Rules we ought chiefly to observe and be directed by.

I. The Holy Scriptures which we must all allow to be Written by the Holy *Evangelists* and *Apostles* for our Learning and Instruction, "being able to make us wise unto Salvation, thro' Faith which is in *Christ Jesus*, II. *Tim.* iii. 15."

II. The Laws of Society, which we shou'd sacredly keep and readily obey, being made, as I said before, by the People themselves in the Person of their Representatives, for the mutual Preservation of their Lives and Properties from Force and Fraud. These Laws can never be offensive to the Righteous; but are calculated and made purely to restrain the licentious, and Punish the wicked and unjust. For a Nation without Law is like Sheep without a Shepherd; how can we murmur against the Superiours when our Laws are the most equitable of any in the World, and more favourable to the Poor than those of any Nation I can mention?

Wherefore I cannot imagine what we wou'd be at, unless we want to be all rich alike, that there shou'd be neither Church nor civil Government amongst us. The Gospel is pretty much upon it's Decline, because the Laws against the Transgressors thereof are not duly put in Execution. And hence it is, that having first revolted from God and his Commands we are become the most disobedient Subjects to our King and Government of any People that I know of: O base Ingratitude! O shameful Return to that gracious King, who so illustriously fills the *British* Throne, and who, during the whole Course of his Reign, has made it his constant Endeavour to reign in the Hearts of his People, by hearing their Petitions, redressing their Grievances, and making their own Laws the invariable Rule of his Conduct!

One Instance (out of a Thousand which might be produc'd) of his Majesty's paternal Care and tenderness for his Subjects is his most gracious Speech at the Opening of last Sessions of Parliament, wherein he strongly recommends to them to consider of some effectual Method of relieving the Poor by reducing the high Price of Corn, and to preserve Friendship and Union amongst them, testifying, at the same Time, particular his Desire that all Occasions of Complaint might be cut off by making every thing as much as possible, agreeable and easy to his Subjects. Now such a Prince, who is really a Friend of Liberty, and the Father of his People, shou'd, I think, merit the most cheartul and ready Obedience from all Protestants in *Great-Britain*, as well

as else-where within his Dominions : Let us then, like dutiful Sons, act with Vigour and Unanimity, in conjunction with so good and gracious a King, whose chief Study has always been the great Support of his Crown and Kingdoms. Whereas in other Realms abroad the mere Arbitrary Will of the Monarch is Law.

These Reasons, I say, shou'd induce us to concur in such Measures as shall appear best calculated for our own Defence and Security against all those despotic Powers whose chief Design is to Ruin us by depriving us at once both of our civil and religious Liberties : But their Treatment of the Poor, defenceless Inhabitants of *Pensylvania* has been so superlatively cruel and severe, that I trust God in his good Providence will interpose, and counterwork their barbarous Proceedings.

If this Country had taken the same Methods that *New-England* did, it would not have suffered half so much by the Enemy, for when the War begun in those Parts of the World, the Country was very ill provided with Fire-Arms, and those who had Guns of their own were very little better for them, because they were not kept in good Order : this Defect rendered them incapable of defending themselves against those Barbarians, who daily mangled them in such an inhuman and butcherly Manner, as is almost incredible to those who never saw it ; for who cou'd think that any Creature in human Shape, cou'd exercise such savage Acts of Brutality on the Innocent. But *New England* took some prudent

prudent and necessary Steps to oppose the violent Career of these incarnate Devils, by playing their own Artillery upon them, and as I think the Method they used one of the best that has been practised of late, I humbly beg leave to offer it to the Public, in hopes it may be of some Service to *Old England*.

As Britain is a free Nation, I hope every Individual will readily embrace, and vigorously pursue those Measures that shall be judged most necessary and effectual for the Preservation and Defence of the Whole against those faithless Enemies, whom the most sacred Treaties cannot bind, measuring Right and Wrong only by the adulterate Standard of their own ambitious Views, and perpetually, on every Pretence, invading our Properties. To render the Scheme more practicable, I must conjure my Country-men to rise up, with united Hearts and Hands, and bravely assert the glorious Cause of Liberty which we now so happily without the least Molestation enjoy, and which our worthy Ancestors so dearly purchas'd for us with the Price of their Blood and Treasure: One invaluable Legacy (amongst many) which they left us, is the free Exercise of Religion, agreeably to the Dictates of every Man's Conscience. A noble Toleration this ! a Toleration truly worthy of the Divine Author of the Christian Institution and an inestimable Blessing to every Member of the Community !

Proceed we now to lay down the Methods for the better regulating the standing Militia, which, at this time, we so greatly want, and which (under God) is the most natural Means of our Preservation. I shall divide what I have to say on the Subject into the two following Heads.

I. I shall shew the Advantages those Nations enjoy, who shall always think proper to put themselves in a regular Posture of Defence against the Enemy.

II. I shall point out the bad Consequences that necessarily attend those that lie inactive at Home, secure and unconcern'd, till the Enemy arouse them by thundering at their Doors, as is now certainly the supine Situation of *Great-Britain*.

And as in *England* a standing Militia has been long discontinu'd, altho' an Attempt has been made of late to revive it, and a Bill for that Purpose has pass'd into a Law; yet, 'tis to be fear'd, as it now stands, it can't be properly executed; because the poorer sort of People mistakenly imagine that by it, upon Occasion, they shall be obliged to go abroad, and be their Families never so large, and their Wages never so small, are to bear an equal Share of Expence and Danger with Gentlemen of Fortune, who have a great deal of Property to save or lose, and they conceive no adequate Provision is made to compensate their Time and Service. Now as every Member of a free State has a right to communicate his Thoughts, I wou'd humbly propose

pose, that every Man (capable of bearing Arms) throughout the *British* Nation, from Eighteen Years of Age to Fifty, form themselves into Companies, consisting of one Hundred Men in each Division. That those Companies so assembling shall have a Right to chuse their own Officers by Majority of Votes, which will prevent all Disputes that might arise on this Occasion : For if the Government shou'd appoint Officers, perhaps they wou'd not be liked ; but when each Company chuses its own Commanders, surely then they can have no Room for Objection !

That every ten Companies join, and, in the same Manner chuse their Colonel, Major, and Adjutant who are to command and preside over the whole Regiment : Then for Completing the Men with Arms (a thing easy to be done) we Propose, That a Man worth 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ a Year, real Estate, find his own Gun and all other Necessaries to complete a Militia-Man ; that the poorer sort of People be furnished with Fire-Arms, and all other necessary Accoutrements at the Expence of the Government ; That those Men who have Arms at the Charge of the Nation, and those that find their own, be equally oblig'd to appear once a Month throughout the Year, at the Places appointed for Rendezvous, in Order to be Reviewed by the Officers of each Company, which Officers are to see that their Men's Firelocks are kept in good Order, and if any Flaw appears to order 'em to be repair'd before the next Day of Review, every Person so neglecting to perform his Duty in this Point, being liable to
pay

pay a Fine of 5 s for every such Offence, and the like Sum for disobeying Orders, in not appearing once a Month at the Place of Rendezvous, which Forfeitures may be lawfully recovered by the Captain of each Corps, and are to be divided equally among the Poor People in the Company they belong to. Every Gentleman of Estate so offending, as aforesaid, is to pay Five Pounds for every Neglect of Duty, and the Money arising from such Fines is to be distributed among the Poor of each Party they belong to, by the Captain, according as their several Necessities shall require.

Likewise, that every Man in time of War, or an Invasion, be obliged to keep by him 36 Rounds of Powder and Ball made into Cartridges, and that the poorer People (as abovesaid,) be furnished with it at the expence of the Public. Was some such Plan laid and persued, and *England* threatened with any sudden attack, upon any of her Coasts, we shou'd be in readiness to turn out into the Field, under the Command of our respective Officers, in such a condition of Defence, as to be able, under Providence, to repulse and defeat our Enemies, before they cou'd come to any Head against us: And I am sure every true Protestant, must think himself in Duty bound, to defend his Religion and civil Rights, against the common Eenemy of both. For if the *French* were to land 20 or 30,000 Men, in any part of *England*, in the defenceless Condition we are at this time, they wou'd make such Havock, and Desolation in the Country, before any Army could be got in readiness to oppose them, that we should find it a very difficult and

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tedious

tedious Task to repair the Loss. But, if every Man in *Great-Britain*, from 20 to 50 Years of Age, had but Fire-Arms put into their Hands, and were formed into regular Companies, under the Command of proper Officers of their own chusing, no Enemy in the World cou'd ever penetrate 20 Miles into the Country, without being entirely routed or destroy'd by our Militia; which, at such Times ought always to be in readiness to assemble themselves together, on the first Notice, to give the Enemy Battle, and repel any Invasion made on the Nation.

Now a Militia, formed on an equitable and just Plan, and ever in a proper Condition of Defence, is I think every Body must allow, the most natural Bulwark of this Island, in conjunction with our naval Forces, and the best Barrier against the Encroachments of a foreign Enemy: And if it was but put into Execution, in a Form agreeable to the poorer sort of People, they wou'd be able to maintain their ground in *England*, without the Assistance of the regular Troops; which, in time of War, might be sent to defend his Majesty's Plantations abroad, and annoy the Enemy in any part of the World, where their Attendance and Service shall be most required. Nay, in short, if all the Men in *Great-Britain* that are able to bear Arms, knew no more of the Exercise than only to Load and Fire, they would be in a Capacity sufficient to support the Nation.

This, very probably, may seem a Paradox at first Sight, but pray consider the Manner of the wild *Indians* we have in *North-America*, they are train'd up
to

to no regular Discipline, their Method of Fighting is to skulk behind Bushes, and Fire at the Enemy at all Advantages: For in such Places as those no Regulars can come up with them; so with very little Variations, according to Circumstances, the Militia, here in *England*, might harraßs the Enemy from one Ditch to another, and never expose themselves to Danger. For Instance, suppose the *French* were to land 30 or 40,000 Men in any part of *Eng^land*, they must draw up, ranging their Men in proper Order, and attack us in a regular form of Discipline: How easy then would it be for the Country to rise and suppress the Enemy at once, without losing one Inch of their Rights and Properties? Thus if we were all unanimously join'd together like Brethren, the Children of one common Parent, in the good and common Cause, as becomes all Protestants; the Cause I mean and Vindication of Liberty, in Opposition to Tyranny, and was but proper Care taken to discountenance Infidelity, Prophaneness, and Vice, and maintain Religion, Piety, and Virtue amongst us, *England* wou'd soon emerge out of Disgrace and Obscurity, and shine abroad in her ancient Dignity and Splendor: For if God be interested on our Side whom need we fear? "The Righteous shall flourish, when the Wicked shall be caught in the Snares of their own Imaginations."

I have just now recollected an Observation concerning the Militia, which had before escaped my Memory, tho' what has been already said, I have reason to hope is not altogether beside the Purpose; for if we were but all united together in one Opinion, there need be no scruple among us, for every

one of us to carry Arms in our own Defence, to oppose those Enemies governed by that King who falsely stiles himself *Most Christian*.

But as we have many *Papists* amongst us, who might perhaps wish well to the Enemy, and engage in their Interests, they ought not to be indulg'd in the same Liberties in *England* that *Protestants* are and ought to be entitled to. I mean they ought not to be allowed to bear Arms, or any other Instruments belonging to War, in any of his Majesty's Dominions at Home or Abroad, unless they will first embrace the *Protestant* Religion, and continue in that Communion for twelve Months being baptized according to the Form of the Chu. of *England* or being lawfully taken in as Members of any other Society or Congregation in *England*, agreeable to the Act of Toleration. Then the Oath of Allegiance ought to be rendered to them by some of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, which if they will accept, they are to be deemed as Free-men of the Nation, and may carry Arms, as herein before-mention'd ; But, if they won't come to this Resolution, they shou'd not by any Means be allowed to carry Arms as *Protestants* do ; Notwithstanding, they may, and ought to raise such Sums of Money, as they shall be adjudged to pay towards the Maintenance of the Militia, according to their several Estates and Circumstances.

Thus due Inspection and Enquiry ought to be made into every one's Religion before they be admitted to carry Arms in behalf of the Nation, for
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if we suffered our Enemies at Home to be train'd up to the use of Arms, they wou'd certainly take the Opportunity of turning their Edge upon us, by siding with our Foreign Foes in Case of an Invasion. A very cheap and easy Way to distinguish all *Papists* from *Protestants* is for the Minister of each Parish to search the Register and enquire whether every Person, within his District, was brought up a *Protestant* and baptized into the same Faith. This is soon done, and with little Trouble and no Expence to the Nation. By using this fair and easy Method, every Man wou'd think himself in Duty bound to bear his Part of the Yoke, according to his Ability; otherwise, I am sure, he is no *Protestant*, but a down-right *Frenchman* in his Heart. For it is certain, "an *Englishman* is hard " to drive; but very condescending to lead." This we must conclude to be owing to that native Spirit of Freedom that worketh in us, firing us with Resentment when we are injuriously treated, and makes us impatient of arbitrary Controul.

The foregoing Lines to me carry so much Light and Evidence along with them, that in every particular they tally with my own judgement: And as we *Britons* have borne the Character of a brave and free People, let us not, I beseech you, forfeit our Birth-right and Reputation by rebelling any more against the Laws of our Country. To raise therefore, and strengthen your Esteem for your pure Religion, your Love for your Country, and your Loyalty and Attachment to the best of Kings, which ought to be dearer to you than your Lives and

and Fortunes, look back, I pray, and consider how you were delivered from the grievous Yoke of Popery ; what, and how many cruel Persecutions and inhuman Massacres your Fore-fathers suffered for Conscience sake, while as yet the *Protestants* were but a small Handful in Comparison of the *Roman-Catholicks*, till, by Degrees, it pleased God to open the Eyes of the People in general ; Whereupon, renouncing a Religion whose Genius they saw was contrary to the benevolent and meek Spirit of the Gospel of Peace, they set about and completed a Reform, by rectifying several gross Errors and Abuses, exploding a Multiplicity of idle Legends, and superstitious Reveries, and reducing it nearer to it's primitive Purity, in the national Form which obtains at this Day.

A due Consideration of these signal Favours and Interpositions of Providence, in our Behalf, cannot fail to turn the most disaffected Heart among us to our gracious Sovereign, and the most obdurate in humble Gratitude to God, who has mercifully vouchsafed to deliver us out of the Hands of our Enemies, and made us a free and happy People, governed by the best and bravest of Kings, and blessed with every other Privilege, both spiritual and temporal, that a Christian Subject can wish or desire. If we are not virtuous, if we are not happy, the Fault is entirely our own. We enjoy the purest Religion, we enjoy the best Country under Heaven, a Country richly abounding with all the Conveniences and Blessings of Life, to the great Advantage, as well as Satisfaction of the People of

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Great-Britain in particular, if they have any Relish of what is truly Good.

Let us, therefore, be ashamed of the late unreasonable Discontents, and more extravagant Riots of some of the poor People, as greatly tending to their Disgrace, and, if well considered, as much to their Disadvantage. I am afraid (I must say it again) you know not what Sort of an Enemy you have to deal with. The *French* King is possess'd of a very large Country that contains several Millions of People more than we have, and he is absolute Master of the Lives and Fortunes of all these his Subjects; so that, when he pleases, he takes the last Farthing from their Purses, and the last Man from their Villages. Hence, you may easily see that he has great Numbers at his Command, and these Numbers, being the Tools and Confederates of his ill Designs, make him dangerous enough at all Times. I shall here represent to the Reader, a short View of the distressed Circumstances, and deplorable Situation of the Province of *Persylvania* since the Commencement of the late War; and, I hope, it may prove a Warning and Watch-word to the People of *Great-Britain* in General, if they have any Spark of Humanity in them, to excite a Spirit of Resentment in behalf of our Fellow Subjects abroad, against such an absolute, mischievous, and cruel Enemy, who has committed numberless Outrages and Hostilities in Poor unhappy *America*.

Scarce a Day passed but some Family or other sell a Victim to *French* Chicnery or Savage Cru-
 city,

elty. Indeed for some considerable time, nothing could be done for the Relief of the daily Sufferers, by Reason of the inactive Condition the Province remained in, being involv'd besides in Disputes with the Proprietors, and many other Inconveniences consequent thereupon.

The Government of *Pensylvania* was settled between 80 and 90 Years ago, first by the *Welch*, chiefly consisting of *Quakers*, who cultivating the Lands made fine Improvements, and Success seemed to attend all their Undertakings, so that in a few Years there were several Plantations made fit for the Plough; besides, every Spring after, great Numbers of People flocking to it, this Province is now become almost as populous as *England*: About 70 Years ago, the *Quakers* begun to build the City of *Philadelphia*, in order to establish a Trade with *Great-Britain*, which was done and carried on with great Spirit and Alacrity; for they have a fine navigable River the *Delaware*, extending 300 Miles into the Country, and capable of carrying Ships of 800 Tons burden, so that they can trade from thence to any Part of *Europe*. Now the Country being indifferently well stocked with Inhabitants from almost all Nations in *Europe*, they found it necessary to form themselves into a Society, and as they had no Laws or civil Magistrates, the *Quakers* erected a Court-House, where they assembled together and provided Laws for the better regulating the Affairs of the Public, and invested proper Persons with Power to put them in Execution against Offenders. During all this Interval the White-People were

were not molested by the Natives ; for *William Penn*, the Proprietor and Governor of the Province made a legal Contract with the *Indians* for that Tract of Land, which he call'd *Pensylvania*, from his own Name and the Nature of the Soil, and purchased it on such Terms as were quite agreeable to them.

The Savages at that time treated the *Europeans* with a good deal of Humanity and Civility in their Way, and seemed to admire the Planter's ingenious Activity in cutting down large Trees, clearing of Land, and building of Houses, such Employments being matter of Wonder and Astonishment to them, as having never seen any thing of that Nature before ; nay further, at that Time one White-Person with a Gun in his Hand would frighten a Thousand *Indians* almost to Death ; for the very Report of a Firelock would drive the Natives in great Precipitation from the Inhabitants, with all the Marks of Terror and Amazement in their Countenances. In short, so dismally terrify'd were they at this unusual Machine, that they would fall down on their Knees and worship it, till the White-People shewed them their Mistake, by teaching them it's Nature and Use ; hereupon, in a few Years after, the Savages became more dextrous in handling Fire-Arms than their Masters.

On the other Hand, pretty much about this juncture the *French* began to settle on the River *St. Laurence*, about 1100 Miles to the North of *Pensylvania*, where they erected two Cities, viz. *Quebec* and *Montreal*, about 200 Miles distant one from

the other on the said River. Then they apply'd themselves to cultivate the Country as fast as possible, and engag'd great Numbers of *Indians* to their Interest, whom they taught the Use of Fire-Arms, an Exercise the Savages were very fond of.

Now the *French* finding themselves situated on a fine navigable River extending itself about 900 Miles thro' the Country, and that *St. Laurence* had Communication with the Lake *Ontario*, which surrounds the Frontiers of the Provinces of *New-England*, *New-York*, *Pensylvania*, and *Virginia*, and is one of the largest Fresh-Water Lakes in *America*, or even 'tis thought in the World, a first Rate man of War being able to sail there without the least Danger, built Fort *Frontinac* on the said River, adjoining to the Lake *Ontario*. On this River they fitted Ships in the form of Privateers, with flat Bottoms, in order to run up Rivers, and hereby many of 'em reaped considerable Advantage especially from the River call'd the *Ohio*, which washes the Borders of *Pensylvania* and *Virginia*, some of it's Branches stretching all along from thence to the *Mississippi*. From hence as well as from *Canada* the *French* were supply'd with Provisions; then they confined their Attacks to the *Ohio*, and erected Fortifications there, in order, as is supposed to open a Trade with the *Indians*, and not only there but on the Frontiers of every Province from *South-Carolina* to *New-England*, so that all our Settlements are now encompassed by their Forts.

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Now these Preparations were carried on with such profound Secrecy, that none of the *English* Inhabitants knew any thing of their Designs 'till the Year 1752, when some *French* Deserters from *Du-quesne*, taken up by our *Indians* as they were strolling in the Woods and brought to *Philadelphia*, made the Discovery, giving a very intelligible Account of their intended Attacks upon the Provinces, with many other Particulars of great Importance and no less Surprize to the Government. " The Prisoners declared their Zeal for the *English*, and further told them that 600 Regulars came from *France* in the Year 1745, and were all the while between these two Periods kept at Work in building Forts on our Frontiers, from the Head of the River *St. Laurence* to the *Mississippi*, that they had no less than 15 Forts on the *Ohio*, in order to distress the Inhabitants of *Pensylvania* and *Virginia* in case of a Rupture."

Upon hearing this Representation, it was thought by many that the Government would highly resent these daring Intults of the *French* on their Frontiers; but nothing less tho' imminent Danger threatned this Province, yet cou'd it not rouse them from their lethargic Inactivity: They continued to stand still, vainly hoping that the Enemy wou'd confine their Attacks to *Virginia*. The Defence of this Province, with many other Things previous thereunto of no small Importance, was neglected till the last Moment especially the following very necessary one; I mean the courting and effecting a solid and durable Peace with our friendly *Indians*. Had

they taken these Steps, and obtain'd this Alliance, sure I am, the Consequences thereof wou'd have greatly rebounded to our Advantage ; besides, it wou'd have been Means of saving many Thousands of innocent People who miserably perish'd, several of them buried alive in the Ruins of their own Houses, others expiring in the most agonizing Tortures shocking to behold, and scarce to be parallel'd in any History of ancient or modern Date.

In the Year 1754, begun the Difference between the Traders and our friendly *Indians*, the Rise and Occasion whereof, I make no doubt but the humane Reader is anxious to hear, inasmuch as this very Difference kindled those Flames and violent Animosities, which at last broke out into open Hostilities, and unheard of Scenes of Cruelty, spreading Desolation and Terror thro' this Province in Particular. Some venture to say, we are right serv'd and rewarded according to our Deserts. Be that as it may, I shall not pretend to determine the Affair ; but submit the following Lines to the Judgment of the inquisitive.

If the Government of *Pennsylvania*, since the Death of it's first Proprietor *William Penn*, had taken proper Methods to oblige the Traders to deal justly with the *Indians*, whose Tempers, when exasperated with Resentment, are more savage than the hungry Lion, these Disasters might have been, in a good Degree, prevented.

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I intend to conclude this Argument in a few Words, and shall endeavour to do Justice to both Sides, by adhering strictly to Truth. Know, therefore, that within these late Years, the *Indians* became tolerably acquainted with the Nature of our Commerce, and detected the Roguery of some of the Traders, whereupon, they lodged many and grievous Complaints to Col. *Weiser*, the Interpreter between them and the *English*, of the injurious and fraudulent Usage they had received for several Years backwards from White-People, who had cheated 'em out of their Skins and Furs not giving them one Quarter their Value for them.

Likewise, they remonstrated that, whereas Hunting was the Chief Way or Art they ever had to earn a Livelihood by. Game was now become very scarce, because the Whites practis'd it so much on their Ground, destroy their Prey. Col. *Weiser*, their Interpreter advised them to bring down their Skins and Furs to *Philadelphia* themselves, promising that he wou'd take proper Care to see their Goods vended to their Advantage. Whereupon they did so, in pursuance of his Instructions, and finding it their Interest, resolved to continue in the way he had chalk'd out for 'em; for now they were supplied with every thing they wanted from the Merchants Shops at the cheapest Rates. And thus it plainly appear'd to the *Indians* that they had been long imposed on by the Traders, and, therefore, they were determin'd to have no more Dealings with them. This Conduct and Shyness of the *Indians* were very disagreeable to
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several Gentlemen of the Province, who were nearly interested in that Species of Commerce.

Accordingly, in the Years 1753 and 1754, some of the Traders had the assurance to renew their Friendship with them, when, instead of remitting them Clothes and other Necessaries, as had been usual, and were most proper for them, they, with insidious Purposes, carried 'em large Quantities of Rum in small Casks, which they knew the Natives were fond of, under Colour of giving it 'em gratis. In this Manner were the Savages inviegled into Liquor by the Whites, who took the Opportunity while they were intoxicated, of going off with their Skins and Furs; But the Natives, recovering from the Debauch, soon detected the Villainy, and in Revengé, killed many of the Traders and went directly over to the *French*, who encouraged 'em to slay every *English* Person they could meet with, and destroy their Houses by Fire, giving them Orders to spare neither Man, Woman nor Child. Besides, as a further incitement to diligence in this bloody Task, they promised the Savages the Reward of 15 *l.* Sterling for every Scalp they shou'd take, on producing the same before any of his most Christian Majesty's Officers, civil, or military.

Thus our perfidious Enemies instigated those unreasonable Barbarians, to commence Acts of Depredation, Violence and Murder on the several Inhabitants in *North-America*, in 1754, and more especially in *Pensylvania*, as knowing it to be the most

most defenceless province on the Continent. This consideration prompted the savage Race to exhaust their malicious Fury on it in particular.

The *De-la-ware* Indians, the first of our Persecutors, were attended with prodigious Success in all their Attempts to plunder and depopulate a naked and un-resisting Province. And so, finding no Rub in the way to retard their progress, and still fir'd with Revenge, and the Hopes of fresh Spoil, they proceeded with a most determined Resolution to ravage the whole Country and destroy the White-people; besides, they were soon after joined by several other Tribes of *Indians*, on which Accession of Strength, the Inhabitants fled before them, like Sheep before the Wolf; for, wherever they went Ruin, Desolation and Blood follow'd their Foot-steps. At last these insufferable Depredations and uncommon Barbarities committed on the Frontiers roused up the *Philadelphians* to meet and consider what proper Methods might be taken to stem the Torrent, before it shou'd overspread the whole Province, as they had no Reason to expect any Assistance from the Governor or Assembly, who had been in Dispute one with the other for three Years before, about passing a Bill for granting 60,000 *l* for his Majesty's Use, and had then come to no Conclusion. The Result of this Meeting and Consultation of the Merchants in *Philadelphia* was to raise the Sum of 70,000*l*. among themselves, which was accordingly done and carried into Execution with the greatest Spirit and Alacrity, as being resolutely bent to exert the utmost

most of their Abilities to defeat the hellish Intentions of their Enemies. And, in 1755, being something less than six Weeks after this necessary and laudable Scheme for raising Money was proposed, a Body of 2000 Volunteers assembled themselves together under Arms, and marched directly to the Relief of the distressed Inhabitants of the Back-Settlements, building Fortifications in divers Places on the Frontiers, which put a great Stop to their Proceedings.

But these Vigorous Measures and spirited Resolutions were too long delay'd, several Hundreds of innocent Families, in the interim, having lost their Lives in a Manner the most deplorably cruel.

Whereas the Government aforesaid (had not their Attention been too much taken off from so interesting a Subject by the tedious Debates subsisting between themselves and the Governor) might have plann'd and pursued the like Regulations for their own Defence against the encroaching Enemy that threatned them long before.

The Dangerous Consequences, therefore, of their numberless Delays ought to be recorded in History and transmitted to Posterity as an Example to all Countries, in the *British* Interest, which shall absolutely refuse to put themselves in a Posture of Defence against their Foes, and that for their own Safety, as well as for the Good of their King and Country. If we here in *England* only knew the Calamities of the Government of *Pennsylvania* occasion'd,

sion'd, perhaps, in part by the non-resisting Principles of its Members, such Hostilities, as were there committed wou'd surely melt the tender Hearts of our Mother-Country into a generous Pity for the unhappy Sufferers, and not only excite them to revenge our Cause, but to arm themselves against the like Dangers, as we have now fallen Victims to. Our Houses were ransack'd and consum'd to Ashes, our young Men were mown down like Grass in the Field, nor had we one gleam of Hope to shed a Ray of Comfort on the gloomy Prospect.

Must we not now reflect on our Superiors for not putting it in our Power at first to act with more Vigour against our cruel Enemies? Had we but raised 2000 Men, which our Country wou'd have easily produced, and sent them back to the Frontiers, every Man wou'd have lived happily in the Enjoyment of his own Family and Effects. But such unreasonable Disputes depended so long betwixt the Assembly and the Governour, as, was it not notorious Matter of Fact; wou'd scarce be credited.

In the Year 1753, the Assembly petitioned the Governour to sign the Bill for making 60,000 *l* of Paper-Money to be applied to the King's Use, and likewise 60,000 *l*. more for the Service of the Government; his Excellency being bound by the Instructions of the Proprietor not to sign any Bill for making Paper-Money, on the other Hand, made his Addresses to the Assembly, signifying that their Request, tho' reasonable in it self, cou'd

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not be granted by him, because he was oblig'd under a Penalty of 50,000 *l.* not to contradict his Instructions. Therefore, he earnestly press'd them to propose some other Methods that he cou'd comply with, and at the same Time recommended the Levying the said Sum of 120,000 *l.* by way of Land-Tax on the Public. The Assembly very prudently remonstrated to his Excellency, assuring him that there was not half Money enough in the Province to defray the Expences of a War, and to raise such Sums from the Public, wou'd only be to distress the Poor and create in them a Contempt of Authority. Governor *Hamilton*, being willing to acquit himself from the Censure, these Debates were likely to incur, resigned his Commission, and in 1754, was succeeded by *Robert Hunter Morris* Esq; Now great Things were expected to be done by our New Governor, for the Relief of the Back-Inhabitants; But he too being ty'd up to the same Instructions his predecessor was, so far was any thing of that Kind from being effected, that the Disputes between them grew higher and higher, till the Country lost all manner of Patience. At Last, the Assembly differing among themselves, 15 of the People called *Quakers* vacuated their Seats in the House and others of the Church of *England* were chosen in their Rooms.

Hereupon people's Expectations were raised to the highest Pitch, no Body douting but active Measures wou'd now be resolv'd on, to succour the poor Sufferers, and be aveng'd on the inhuman Authors of so much Cruelty and Blood-shed, as there was then a new Assembly and mostly consisting of Mem-
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bers of the Church of *England* Principles. Notwithstanding (to the Astonishment and Indignation of many) nothing at all was done, tho' the Danger roll'd nearer and nearer, and the Savages headed by the *French*, continued to wreak their Revenge on the poor Inhabitants, miserabley, mangling, scalping, burning and killing all that fell in their Way.

About this time the Country People contrived this Scheme (and a very moving Scene certainly it was) to rouse the Assembly from their Insensibility to a Fellow-feeling of their Country Men's Sufferings; they brought Numbers of the Dead and Scalp'd down to *Philadelphia* and laid them before 'em. But this, even this, which might have melted an Heart of Stone, cou'd not effect its desired End, because the Governor was still bound by Instructions from the Proprietor and Merchants here in *Great-Britain* not to sign any Bill for making of Paper-Money in the Province of *Pensylvania*.

Now the Intent and meaning of these Instructions were clearly seen thro' by many, as the Proprietor and Merchants in *London* Traded largely to this Colony, and found that the Produce here raised wou'd not altogether answer their Views in the Return of Goods, since the Duty on Tobacco and other Commodities exported from hence to *England* was so great, and the current Coin of this Province Paper-Money, and consequently of no Service to the Merchants in *Europe*. Hence the Proprietor found it his Interest to prevail upon every Governor that went over not to sign any such Bill.

But the Assembly, wisely foreseeing the bad Effects and fatal Consequences that probably might attend their Schemes, resolved not to comply with any Motion till the Bill was passed ; for, so scarce was Money in the Country, that there was not enough in it to Trade one with the other, tho' there was great Plenty of every thing else. And to comply with such Instructions, as to make no more Paper-Money, wou'd be to keep us for ever Poor, seeing, if nothing passed but Gold and Silver, the Merchants at Home wou'd still have it all for their Goods.

In this Manner the Governor and Assembly spun out the Time in fruitless Delays and Debates till the Year 1756, when Lord *Loudon Campbell* arrived here from *England*, who by Virtue of his Authority, obliged Governor *Morris* to sign the Money-Bill, But now was it too late to recall the many Outrages and Devastations of the Savages on our Back-Settlements who had paid no Regard to Sex, or Rank, Young, or Old, massacring all promiscuously that came within their Reach.

This, with what I have already mentioned, may give the Reader a just Idea of the bad Situation of *Pennsylvania* at the Commencement of the War. Had they only been inclined to Arm themselves, as other Governments on the Continent did, we might have put an entire Stop to the *Indian* Barbarity ; but instead of that we suffered our selves to be driven like Cowards before the Enemy, Whereupon, as they met with such cheap Success in all their Undertakings, they imagin'd they cou'd expell us out of the Country
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and possess it themselves; and then, indeed, according to the general Face of things here, the Event was likely to answer their Expectations, for the Habitations on the Frontiers were laid waste for 10 or 12 Miles every Day, so that Hundreds of Families, at the News of their Approach, abandon'd their Plantations in the utmost Terror and Precipitancy, while many others, who were suddenly surprized and had no Opportunity to make their Escape, were barbarously murder'd in their own Houses.

These heavy Calamities we groaned under at last opened the Hearts of the neighbouring Provinces to afford us some Relief, who greatly reflected on the *Quakers* Conduct in neglecting to arm the People in order to repel Force by Force. The *Quakers* therefore, foreseeing that their pacific Administration was likely to excite a good deal of Animosity in the Minds of many in order to prevent all Disputes that might arise on that Occasion, prudently resigned, as I said before, all their Authority in the Assembly to Church of *England* Members, leaving them to Act as they thought proper. In the mean Time, with great Firmness of Mind and Patience did they bear the many Indignities and Aspersions fasten'd on their Characters, chusing rather to lie under the Oduim of the World, than resist the Dictates of their Conscience. To others, indeed, whose Consciences, Wars, and Fightings do not affect, these troublesome Times must seem to require a vigorous Defence, not only in arming themselves, but in making all other necessary Preparations against the Perpetrators of such horrid Butcheries as were then and there committed.

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But, as the Religion of *Jesus* principling them against Violence and Blood-shed was the sole Cause why they were dilatory in the Affair, I must beg leave to lay before the Reader, the following Lines, as incontestable Matters of Fact, in Justice to the Conduct of the *Quakers* residing in *Pennsylvania*, during these unhappy Commotions. In Order where unto it will be necessary to acquaint the Public with the Reasons the *Quakers* had to Object against a zealous Prosecution of War, in Support of their Country, as was then required, after I have appriz'd you, that since the first Publication of my *French and Indian Cruelty* here, having had occasion to re-consider the Diffension between the Governors and Assembly with closer Attention, I shall endeavour to represent to you the plain and simple Truth, without Favour or Affection to either Side. Had then the reasonable Proposals of the *Quakers* in 1753 been comply'd with, the Consequences thereof wou'd have been very happy for the Province, by cultivating a good Understanding among the People; for every Man wou'd have vy'd with his Neighbour in shewing his Readiness to Vindicate his Country and her Rights, from the Baseness and Barbarity of her Treacherous and Blood-thirsty Foes.

Next, we must observe that, tho' Wars and Fightings are, and always were entirely repugnant to their peaceable Principles, notwithstanding they were very willing to contribute large Sums of Money for the Maintenance of all that wou'd offer themselves Volunteers. And there were Young and able-bodied Men enough in the Province ready to enlist into the Service,

Service, who only waited for further Encouragement. Now as to the Proprietors Instructions to the Governors, they being manifestly self-interested, the Assembly cou'd not in Reason or Justice comply with them, because imminent Danger then threat'ning the Colony requir'd some speedy Resolutions and proper Provisions to be made for the Security of the Country as well as the Proprietor's Rights.

The *Quakers*, therefore, having then a Majority in the House, propos'd a Bill for raising 60,000 *l.* to be apply'd to the King's Use, and 60,000 *l.* more for the Service of the Government.

This Money was design'd to raise Men to oppose the Enemy, and to build Fortifications on the Frontiers for the Defence of the back Settlements. Reasonable as this Bill was, the Governor wou'd not sign it for the Causes before-assign'd, but on the contrary insist'd, that the said Sum shou'd be levied by way of Tax on the cultivated Lands, and at the same Time that the Proprietor's Lands shou'd be exempted from any Incumbrances whatsoever. Whereas the Assembly thought it as necessary for *Penn's* Lands to be taxed as the others: In short, the Proprietor's Instructions were look'd upon by the Country as such monstrous Impositions, that had they been comply'd with, the Consequences thereof, wou'd have caused as much Disturbance among the People as the Enemy did, and for that Reason our honourable Representatives would not answer the Proprietor's Demands, because they were in every Degree oppressive to the Public, and

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no less inconvenient and prejudicial to the future State and Prosperity of the Government.

On this impartial View of the Case, consider'd and compar'd with their Conduct afterwards, we must allow that the Proposals of the *Quakers* were calculated to support the Dignity of their King and the Welfare of their Country, and had they been embraced wou'd in all probability, have prov'd an effectual Barrier to the daily Encroachments the Enemies were then making on our Territories: Further, when they saw, that their reasonable Petitions in behalf of his Majesty were refused, in 1756, the *Quakers* mov'd by Compassion, and a just Sense of Duty and Allegiance, like loyal Subjects, open'd a Contribution among themselves, and rais'd the Sum of 10,000*l.* which they voluntarily gave, and appropriated to the King's Use. And in the same Year they distributed 250*l.* in Shoes and Stockings among the Soldiers, who were stationed on the Frontiers, which I believe contributed to save many of their Lives: Besides all this, they spared no Pains or Expence to cultivate a good Understanding with the *Indians*, and after many Interviews and Conferences with them, their Labours at last were crowned with Success, and Friendship restored, Terms of Peace being ratify'd by Exchanging Strings of Wampum, as is the Manner of the *Indians* upon those solemn Occasions. Since this happy Period, I have not heard that any Act of Hostility has been committed in any Part of this Province. Upon the Whole, let it be duly consider'd by the impartial Reader, whether

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the *Quakers* have not contributed at least, as much for the Welfare of the Province, as those who were so forward, without just Grounds to reflect on their Conduct.

Notwithstanding, allowing the aforesaid Lines to be an authentic Discription of the *Quakers* Transactions in these Parts of the World, yet as many have Censured their Peaceable Dispositions, for not taking Vigorous Measures to oppose the Enemy, I shall here close this Article with a few Remarks as being my own Opinion, in Relation to that Affair; and as such submit them to the Judgment of the impartial Reader. If the *Quakers* had only allowed their young Men to take up Arms in their own Defence against their Enemies, it would have prevented the horrid Cruelties that have been exercis'd here on human Bodies: But they determining to act up to the Dictates of their innocent and peaceable, Principles were entirely against, and wou'd in no wise comply with such Undertakings, because they judg'd that such a procedure was directly inconsistent with the Tenour of the Evangelical Covenant.

These conscientious Proceedings, caused many Families to wallow in their own Gore, and the Living to suffer the most excruciating Pains, and melancholly Afflictions, to glut the insatiable Antipathy of the *Indians*. Oh! what Heart amongst us if not harden'd into Steel or Adamant, can remain unmov'd, when by Reflection, he hears the dismal Shrieks, or sees the lamentable Distress

of our Inhabitants? Whereas, before the Year 1754, every Man enjoy'd the Fruits of his own Labour in un-interrupted Peace and Tranquillity, and, if Matters had been rightly ordered by the Heads of the Government, we might have remain'd so to this Day; but while one Party was influenc'd by Conscience, and the other by sinister Views, our Frontiers in the mean Time were daily expos'd naked to the Attacks of the Savages, before proper Measures cou'd be taken for our Relief. By the Precepts of the Gospel indeed, we are expressly enjoined "To follow Peace with all Men." and, "If the Enemy smite us on one Cheek to turn un-
 " to him the other also." Such Provocations as these, I must confess, are hard for Flesh and Blood to bear, and I believe now-a-days no such Thing is required of us; for in that Command 'tis evident the whole Body of Believers (or Christians) are included, and cannot be kept 'till a general Reformation be wrought, and the whole Earth be subjected to the Kingdom of the Lord and his Christ. 'till, I say, the Time come predicted by the Prophet *Isaiah*, Chap. xi. 6, 8, 9. When "The Wolf shall
 " dwell with the Lamb, and the Leopard shall lie
 " down with the Kid, and the young Lion and the
 " Fatling together, and a Child shall lead them.
 " And the sucking Child shall play on the Hole of
 " the Asp, and the weaned Child shall put his
 " Hand on the Cockatrice-Den. They shall not
 " hurt nor destroy in all my holy Mountain, for
 " the Earth shall be full of the Knowledge of the
 " Lord, as the Waters cover the Sea." And again
 Chap ii. 4. "They shall beat their Swords into
 " Plow-

" Plow-Shares, and their Spears into Pruning-Hooks ; Nation shall not lift up Sword against Nation, neither shall they learn War any more."

But now we see plainly with our Eyes the World is divided, one half against the other, and every one thinks himself wiser than his Neighbour. Quere ---

I. What must the righteous do amidst the ungodly ? Because he is of a meek and humane Disposition must he tamely suffer the Enemy to take away his Life in a barbarous Manner, after he has first beheld the Slaughter of his Wife and Children, with the Loss of every Thing dear and valuable to him, when at the same Time, by his lawful Endeavours, and a prudent Use of the Powers given him, he might have saved his own Life, theirs, and all his Effects ?

II. Can any Man think that God will account this unto him for Righteousness ? No, I believe it will be found much to the contrary ; but if we will be so deceitful as the Scribes and Pharisees of old were, who despised the Publican and justify'd themselves, we may permit the Adversary to smite us and not at the same Time retaliate the Affront ; yet as soon as a convenient Opportunity shall offer, we can dispense with employing another Man to revenge our Cause.

This fair Deduction I will venture to make from what has been above-said, viz. if any Man's Con-

science shall teach him to be so passive and peaceable as to submit to the Enemy, rather than resist the same good Spirit must also teach him, that as he judges it sinful to destroy the Enemy himself, it is no less sinful for him to employ another to do it for him. Is not the Case, in Effect, equally the same either way?

But to return from this Digression to the Matter in Hand, it may not be improper to inform the Reader, of the Conduct and bravery of the *New-England* Forces. The Foundation of this Colony seems Originally to have been laid purely in regard of obtaining Liberty of Conscience; and ever since their first Residence in these Parts, they have always proceeded on a just and reasonable Plan for the Preservation of the Country. *New-England* was first settled by the *Independents*, a little before the Commencement of the Civil-Wars in *England*: They transported themselves thither, rather than they wou'd communicate with the Church of *England*.

Thus all the *New-England* Provinces were settled and well Peopled, within the Space of twenty Years, reckoning from the Arrival of the first Colony at *New-Plymouth*, during which Time another set of Adventurers planted *New-Hampshire*, others *Providence*, and *Rhode-Island*, the People finding that they inhabited a fine, large, and fruitful Country, a short Account of whose Climate, Air, Produce, &c. I shall here subjoin.

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The Lands next the Sea in *New-England*, are generally low, and the Soil sandy, but further up into the Country it rises into Hills, and on the North-East it is Rocky and Mountainous: The Winters are much severer here than in *Old England*, tho' it lies 9 or 10 Deg. more South, but they have usually a clearer Sky, and more settled Weather, both in Winter and Summer than in *Old-England*; and tho' their Summers are shorter, the Air is considerably hotter while it lasts. The Winds are very boisterous in the Winter Season, and the North-Wind blowing over a long Tract of frozen and un-cultivated Countries, with several fresh-Water Lakes, makes it excessive Cold. Their Rivers are sometimes congeal'd in a Night's Time; the Climate is generally healthful and agreeable to *English* Constitutions.

The Fruits of *Old-England* come to great Perfection here, particularly Peaches, which are planted-Trees; and we have commonly 1200 or 1400 fine Peaches on such a Tree at one Time; nay, of the Fruit of one single Apple-Tree, in one Season, Nine Barrels of Cyder have been made. *English* Wheat, I find, does not thrive here, within 40 or 50 Miles of *Boston*; but farther up into the Country they have it in great plenty, and I think, it comes to the same perfection as in *Britain*. Now why Wheat should not grow near this City, I confess, I can Assign no reason that will fully satisfy the Reader's Curiosity. The Conjectures upon it are various: Some venture to say it was occasioned by the unjust persecution of the

the *Quakers*, the Independents having vented their Spleen against them in a Way the most rigorous, and in flat Contradiction to the Laws of Christianity. All other Grain, but Wheat, thrives in this Place with great Success; in particular, Indian-Corn, one Grain where of frequently produces 1200, and sometimes 2000 Grains. This Corn is of three different Colours, *viz.* Blue, White and Yellow.

The province of *New-England* appears to be vastly extensive, being about 400 Miles in Length and near 300 in Breadth, situated between 69 and 73 Deg. W. Long. and between 41 and 46 Deg. N. Lat. It contains vast Tracts of cultivated Lands and a great Number of English Inhabitants, who all unanimously concur to execute the following necessary Methods proposed among them, in obedience to their King, and for the Defence of their Country. Immediately after their first Settlement here they took Care to plan this regular Scheme for opposing their Enemy, *viz.* they formed themselves into Companies, and chose their own Officers. They enjoined every Man from 16 Years of Age to 50 to furnish himself with a Gun, Tomahawk, Powder-Horn, Shot-Bag, and every thing else to complete a Soldier, at his own Expence. Besides, they are always oblig'd to keep by them 1 Pound of Powder and 3 Pound of Ball; that in Case of an Invasion in the Country every Man shou'd be equally obliged to turn out, in an Hour's Warning, ready to face their Enemy under the Command of their respective Officers, where-

wherever Occasion shall require them most. This Militia is now arrived to such Perfection and become so numerous here, that the City of *Boston* can alarm all the Inhabitants, in less than 24 Hours Time : In Consequence of which Alarm 100,000 Men will be on their March under Arms to the Place invested. Hence it is that the *Independents*, having ever since their first Arrival in this Colony kept such good Orders and regular Discipline amongst them, became so formidable, that their Enemies dared not to oppose them. And they continue to be so still ; for to *Great-Britain's* everlasting Shame and Reproach with the greatest Alacrity and Spirit do they Nobly stand up every Man in Vindication of his Life and Property, the Honour of his King, and the Support of his Country. Further, in peaceable Times in order to prepare themselves the more effectually against any Surprize, they assemble together once every Month, to learn their Discipline, being carefully reviewed by their Officers, who narrowly examine into the Condition of all their Accoutrements ; wherein, if any Deficiencies appear, they are immediately rectified, and strict Orders are given to the Serjeants and Corporals to take down a List of every Man's Name that is absent, and return the same to the Commander in Chief. Likewise, if any Man be convicted of a Breach of Duty in any of the Articles herein mentioned, unless he can produce good and sufficient Reasons for his so doing, he is by the Laws of the Country amerced in a Fine of Five Shillings, payable to the Company he belongs to ; which Money is equally

equally divided among the Whole ; but so agreeable, harmonious, and observant are they of their reasonable Duties, from the lowest to the highest, that hardly ever any Forfeitures of this Kind are paid.

I heartily wish all true *Protestants* here in *Great-Britain* who love their Lives, Liberties, and Religion, would Copy after this laudable Example. Only consider what vast Designs the *French* have concerted against us, and what prodigious preparations they are making at home, both by Land and Sea, in order to annoy or invade this Island, which I had an Opportunity of seeing while amongst them. But I comfort myself with the pleasing Hopes that my Mother Country was raising Armaments sufficient to match and repel all the Forces of her Enemies.

When I arrived in *England*, from my Captivity, on my way to *Aberdeen*, in *Scotland*, the Place of my Nativity, I found, to my Surprize, that our Home Devisions were great and very pernicious to the Safety of the Public. Whereupon, the Worthy Gentlemen of the City of *York*, foreseeing the dangerous Consequences of these illegal Proceedings, and to prevent the like Riots, Extortions, and Depredations for the future, with the Approbation of the Right Honourable *George Fox Lane*, Esq; Lord Mayor voluntarily took up Arms at their own Expence, chose proper Officers and form'd themselves into Companies. They equip'd themselves, each in a genteel Uniform of Blue trimm'd with Scarlet, and

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all Accountrements necessary for a Gentleman Volunteer. At first they appeared every Day in the *Castle-Yard*, &c. to learn the Military Exercise, in which they arrived at such a wonderful Proficiency, that, in a very short Time, they cou'd perform the several Military Evolutions with a Dexterity and Exactness that might have done Honour to any regular Troops I ever saw. They still continue the glorious Practice, reflecting a shining Example to others; which has already had so happy and desirable an Effect, that the Gentlemen of *Whitby, Malton, Tadcaster, Leeds*, &c. have in great Numbers entred themselves as Volunteers in Imitation of the City of *Tork*. The Loyalty of these Gentlemen has not only been recommended by his Majesty, the Court and Parliament, but by every sincere Lover of the *British* Constitution; and it wou'd be Matter of inexpressible joy to me, and many besides, were all those in the *Protestant*-Interest, but as well disciplin'd as the Gentlemen aforesaid. If Matters were rightly managed, such a thing might be effected without much Trouble; for had we but really at Heart an honest Love and warm Zeal for our King and Country, sure I am, we cou'd not begrudge the Spending two or three Hours every Month to learn the Art of War, and demonstrate our Loyalty to the World. Yet, notwithstanding the Dangers that threaten us all around, the Major-Part of us seem lost to all Sensibility by an habitual Indolence and voluntary Supineness; nay, the good old *British* Spirit and Manners are so far extinguish'd and debauch'd (to our Shame I speak it) by Effeminacy and Vice, that there are many among us who had rather waste their Time and Money in Idleness,

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Gaming

Gaming, Drunkenness, and other such vile Practices, Practices destructive both to Soul and Body, than engage in the just and honourable Employment aforementioned. I shall conclude this Subject with expressing my hearty Sorrow and Concern to see so much Discontent and Laziness prevail amongst us.

Now return we to give an Account of the Climates Produce, Trade, &c. of the other Colonies in *North-America*; and next of *New-York*.

The Situation of this Province is between 72 and 76 W. Long. and between 41 and 44 N. Lat. being about 200 Miles in Length and 100 Miles in Breadth. The Lands, in the *Jerseys* and South-Part of *New-York*, are low and flat; but as you ascend 20 or 30 Miles up *Hudson's River*, the Country is rocky and Mountainous. The Air is much milder here in Winter than in *New-England*, and in Summer, it is pretty much the same. The Produce and Trade of *New-York*, and the *Jerseys* consist in Cattle and a good breed of Horses. They have plenty of Wheat and other Grain, such as Indian-Corn, Buck-Weed, Oats, Barley, and Rye. It abounds also with Store of Fish: They supply the Sugar-Islands with Flour, Salt-Beef, Pork, Salt-Fish and Timber-Planks, in return for the Produce raised there.

OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The Extent of this Colony is 200 Miles in Length and 200 Miles in Breadth. The Soil is much better than in *Jersey*, chiefly consisting of a black Mold; the Country rises gradually as in the adjacent Provinces,

ces, having the Apalatian Mountains on the West, and is divided into fix Counties. The Air, it lying in the 40 Deg. of N. Lat. is near the same as in *New-York*, and very healthy to *English* Constitutions. The Produce and Merchandize of *Pensylvania* consists in Horses, Pipe-Staves, Beef, Pork, Salt-Fish, Skins, Furs, and all Sorts of Grain, viz. Wheat, Rye, Pease, Oats, Barley, Buck-Weed, Indian-Corn, Indian-Pease, Beans, Pot-Ashes, Wax, &c. and in return for these Commodities, they import from the *Caribee* Islands, and other Places, Rum, Sugar, Molasses, Silver, Negroes, Salt, and Wine ; and from *Great-Britain*, Household-Goods, Cloathing of all Sorts, Hard-Ware, &c. The Nature of the Soil in *Pensylvania*, the *Jersey* and *New-York*, is extremely proper to produce Hemp, Flax, &c.

OF MARYLAND.

This Country extends about 150 Miles in Length, and 137 Miles in Breadth. The Lands are low and flat next the Sea ; towards the Heads of Rivers they rise into Hills and beyond lie the Apalatian Mountains, which are exceeding high. The Air of this Province is excessive hot some Part of the Summer, and equally cold in the Winter, when the North-West Wind blows ; but the Winters are not of so long Duration here as in some other Colonies adjoining to it. In the Spring of the Year they are infested with thick, heavy Fogs that rise from the low Lands, which render the Air more un-healthy for *English* Constitutions ; and hence it is, that, in the aforesaid Season, the People are constantly afflicted with Agues.

The Produce of this Country is chiefly Tobacco, planted and cultivated here with much Application, and nearly the same Success, as in *Virginia*, and their principal Trade with *England* is in that Article. It also affords them most Sorts of the Grain, and Fruits of *Europe* and *America*.

OF VIRGINIA.

The Extent of this Province is computed to be 260 Miles in Length, and 220 Miles in Breadth, being mostly low, flat Land. For an Hundred Miles up the Country, there is scarce a Hill or a Stone to be seen. The Air and Seasons (it lying between 36 and 39 of N. Lat.) depend very much on the Wind, as to Heat and Cold, Dryness and Moisture. The North and North-West-Winds are very nitrous and piercing Cold, or else boisterous and Stormy: The South, and South-East-Winds, hazy and sultry hot. In Winter they have a fine, clear Air, which renders it very pleasant: The Frosts are short; but some Times so very sharp that Rivers are froze over 3 Miles broad. Snow often falls in large Quantities; but seldom continues above two or three Days at most.

The Soil, tho' generally sandy and shallow, produces Tobacco of the best Quality in great Abundance. The People's usual Food is Indian-Corn made into Hommony, boiled to a Pulp, and comes the nearest to butter'd-Wheat of any thing I can compare it to. They have Horses, Cows, Sheep, and Hogs in prodigious Plenty, many of the last running wild in the Woods. The Regulation kept here is much

the same as in *New-England*; every Man from 16 to 60 Years of Age, is enlisted into the Militia, and mustered, once a Year, at a general Review, and four Times a Year by Troops and Companies. Their Military Complement, by Computation, amounts to about 30,000 effective Men, the collective Number of the Inhabitants, Men, Women, and Children to 100,500, and including Servants and Slaves, to twice that Number.

OF C A R O L I N A.

This Colony is computed to extend 660 Miles in Length; but it's Breadth is unknown. The Lands, here are generally low and flat, and not a Hill to be seen from *St. Augustine* to *Virginia*, and a great way beyond. 'Tis mostly covered with Woods where the Planters have not cleared it. About 100 Miles West of the Coast, it shoots up into Eminences and continues to rise gradually all along to the Apal-
 atian Mountains, which are about 160 Miles distant from the Ocean. The North-Parts of *Carolina* are very un-even, but the Ground is extremely proper for producing Wheat; and all other Sorts of Grain that grow in *Europe* will come to great Perfection here. The South-Parts of *Carolina*, if properly cultivated, might be made to produce Silk, Wine, and Oil. This Country yields large Quantities of Rice, of which they Yearly Ship off to other Colonies about 80,000 Barrels, each Barrel containing 400 Wt. besides they make abundance of Tar, Pitch, and Turpentine. They carry on also a great Trade with Deer-Skins, and Furs, to all Places of *Europe*, which
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the *Englifo* receive from the *Indians* in Barter for Guns, Powder, Knives, Sciffars, Looking-Glaffes, Beads, Rum, Tobacco, Coarfe-Cloth, &c.

The *Englifo* Chapmen carry thefe on Pack-Horfes 5 or 600 Miles into the Country, Weft of *Charles-Town*; but moft of the Commerce is confined within the Limits of the *Creek* and *Cherokee* Nations, which do not lie above 350 Miles from the Coaft. The Air is very Temperate and agreeable both Summer and Winter. *Carolina* is divided into two diftinct Provinces, viz. North and South-*Carolina*.

OF N O V A - S C O T I A.

This Place extends about 600 Miles in Length, and 450 in Breadth: The Air is pretty much the fame as in *Old-England*: The Soil is, for the moft Part, barren; but where it is clear'd and cultivated, it affords good Corn and Pasture. Here is fine Timber and fit for Building, from whence Pitch and Tar may be extracted. Here alfo Hemp and Flax will grow, fo that this Country will be capable of furnifhing all Manner of Naval Stores. It abounds likewise with Deer, Wild-Fowl, and all forts of Game. On the Coaft is one of the fineft Cod-Fifheries in the World. *European* Cattle, viz. Sheep, Oxen, Swine, Horfes, &c. they have in great Abundance. The Winters are very Cold, their Frofts being fharp and of long Duration; Their Summers are moderately hot, fo that the Climate, in the Main, feems to be agreeable to *Englifo* Conftitutions.

OF C A N A D A.

I fhall clofe the Description of the *American* Colonies, with a fhort Account of the Soil and produce of *French Canada*.

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It's Extent is, according to their Map, 1800 Miles in Length, and 1260 in Breadth. The Soil, in the low Lands near the River St Laurence will, indeed, raise Wheat ; but, withal, I found it so shallow, that it wou'd not produce that Grain above two Years, unless it was properly Manured. About 20 Miles from the said River, so hilly and mountainous is the Country, that nothing but *Indians* and wild ravenous Beasts resort there. However, they have Plenty of Rye, Indian-Corn, Buck-weed, and Oates ; likewise of Horses, Cows, Sheep, Swine, &c. But I have observed that Fruits of any Kind do not come to such Perfection here as in some of the *English* Settlements, which is owing to the long Duration and excessive Cold of their Winters. The Summer is short and temperately hot. The Climate, in general, is healthy and agreeable to *European* Constitutions. And so much for the Provinces in North-America.

Proceed we now, in the last Place, to give a succinct Detail of the Education, Manners, Religion, &c. of the Natives. The *Indians* are born tolerably white ; but they take a great deal of pains to darken their Complexion, by anointing themselves with Grease and lying in the Sun. Their Features are good, especially those of the Women. Their Limbs clean, straight, and well Proportion'd, and a crooked and deformed Person is a great Rarity amongst them. They are very ingenious in their Way, being neither so ignorant, nor so innocent as some People imagine : On the contrary, a very understanding Generation are they, quick of Apprehension, sudden in Dispatch, Subtle in their Dealings, exquisite in their Inventions, and in Labour assiduous : The World has no better Marks-men with Guns, Bows, and Arrows than the Natives, who can kill Birds flying, Fishes swimming, and Wild-Beasts running ; nay, with such prodigious Force do they discharge their Arrow, that one of them will shoot a Man quite thro' and Nail both his Arms to his Body with the same Arrow.

As to their Religion, in order to reconcile the different Accounts exhibited by Travellers, we must suppose that different Tribes may have different Notions, and different Rites : And tho' I do not think myself capable of detetmining the Case with the Precision and Accuracy I cou'd wish ; yet with what

what I have collected from my own Observation when among them and the Information of my Brother-Captives who have been longer conversant with the *Indians* than I was; I shall readily give the Public all the Satisfaction I can.

Some assure us the *Indians* worship the Images of some inferior Deities, whose Anger they seem to dread; on which Account the Generality of our Travellers denominate the Objects of their Devotion Devils; tho' at the Time, it is allowed they pray to their inferior Deities for Success in all their Undertakings, for plenty of Food and other Necessaries of Life. It appears too that they acknowledge one supreme Being, but him they adore not, because they believe he is too far exalted above them, and too happy in himself to be concerned about the trifling Affairs of poor Mortals. They seem also to believe a future State, and that, after Death, they will be removed to their Friends, who have gone before them, to an Elysium or Paradise beyond the Western-Mountains: Others again allow them either no Religion at all, or, at most very faint Ideas of a Deity; but all agree that they are extravagantly superstitious, and exceedingly afraid of Evil Spirits. To these Dæmons they make Oblations every New-Moon, for the space of seven Days, during which Time they cast Lots and sacrifice one of themselves, putting the Person devoted to the most exquisite Misery they can invent, in order to satisfy the Devil for that Moon; for they think if they please but the Evil Spirit, God will do them no Hurt.

Certain however it is that those *Indians*, whom the *French* Priests have had an Opportunity of Ministering unto, are induced to believe "that the Son of God came into the World to save all Mankind, and destroy all Evil Spirits that now trouble them, that the *English* have killed him and that ever since the Evil Spirits are permitted to walk on the Earth: That if the *English* were all ruled, the Son of a Good-Man, who is God, wou'd come again and banish all Evil-Spirits from their Lands, and then they wou'd have Nothing to fear or disturb them." Cajol'd by these false but artful Insinuation of the *French Jesuits*, the *Indians* from that Time have endeavour'd to massacre all the *English* in order that the Son of God might come again on the Earth and rid them from their slavish Fears and terrible Apprehensions by exterminating the Objects thereof.

F I S.

